US005619639A

United States Patent [19]

Mast

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,619,639

[45] **Date of Patent:** Apr. 8, 1997

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ASSOCIATING AN IMAGE DISPLAY AREA WITH AN APPLICATION DISPLAY AREA**

[76] Inventor: **Michael B. Mast**, 5158 Clareton Dr., Agoura Hills, Calif. 91301

[21] Appl. No.: **317,756**

[22] Filed: **Oct. 4, 1994**

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G06F 3/14**
[52] U.S. Cl. **395/326**; 395/349
[58] Field of Search .... 395/157, 155, 395/156, 160, 161, 600, 650, 153, 154, 158, 159, 700; 364/514 C; 358/456

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,954,819	9/1990	Watkins	340/721
5,065,345	12/1991	Knowles et al.	395/154
5,101,283	3/1992	Seki et al.	358/456
5,109,482	4/1992	Bohrman	395/154
5,140,677	8/1992	Fleming et al.	395/159
5,140,678	8/1992	Torres	395/159
5,179,702	1/1993	Spix et al.	395/650
5,287,447	2/1994	Miller et al.	395/157
5,293,470	3/1994	Birch et al.	395/135
5,305,435	4/1994	Bronson	395/159
5,323,314	6/1994	Baber et al.	364/401
5,339,392	8/1994	Risberg et al.	395/161
5,428,782	6/1995	White	395/650

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

5204795 8/1993 Japan .

Primary Examiner—Mark R. Powell
Assistant Examiner—Ruay Lian Ho
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Hecker & Harriman

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method for adding a photograph or other still or animated image to any application program running in its own window in a windowed computer operating environment such as Microsoft Windows 3.1 is presented. A bitmapped or other image is "attached" to any application program capable of running in a windowed environment, without any modification to such application program, such that when the application program is started and its window is opened, the image is displayed at a predetermined location with respect to the application window. The displayed image, though "attached" to the application program's window, does not interfere to any significant extent with the operation of the application. Application programs are thereby customized and personalized by associating particular images, such as scanned-in personal photographs, with each particular application program. The image "attached" to an application may be chosen from a gallery of images. The image displayed for a particular application may be periodically changed in a "slide-show" manner with a sequence of images chosen by the user. A company's logo can be displayed on the display screen while application programs are being demonstrated during a presentation. A "drawer" metaphor is further provided for displaying and removing images on a display.

43 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets